



BUNCOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 1998

FIFTH ANNUAL BUNCOM DAY SET FOR MAY

We've already reached a milestone! We'll be holding the 5th annual Buncom Day this spring. Like they say, time flies when you're having fun.

The event is set for Saturday, May 23, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Once again, Donna Epstein, who organized the very successful day last year, has graciously agreed to be the chair.

As in the past, we expect it to be a fun family day with food, music and craft vendors. And this year – back by popular demand – the Parade! Many of you commented last year that you missed the parade, a highlight of the Buncom Centennial two years ago. You remember that one: The parade route was the block between the Roberts' driveway and the intersection; we had so much fun we turned around at the intersection and did it again!

Annual Meeting/Work Party Saturday, May 16

We're going to try something new this year: Combine the annual meeting with the work party before Buncom Day. Mark your calendar for Saturday, May 16, at 10 a.m. at Buncom.

Bring tools as always – rakes, brush cutters, brooms, etc.

We'll hold a short meeting, then get the grounds ready for Buncom Day. We should be finished by noon.

See you there!

*The Flood was bad, but this
is ridiculous!*



Can you tell what's in the truck? It's a submarine! At the intersection of Yale Creek and Little Applegate roads.

Last August, friends of Society members Scotty and Connie Gray stopped by on their way to Seattle with "Snooper," a two-man sub built (by Scotty, among others) to search for sunken treasure. Snooper was the sub which found the Brother Jonathan and \$200 million in the Pacific off of Crescent City, CA. Scotty says he's ridden the sub as deep as 600 feet.

Needless to say, the sub got many surprised looks as it drove by!

DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

It's just \$5.00 per year per family. Use the form on the last page. We need your support! If your address label has a "No" in the lower right corner, you haven't paid your 1998 dues yet. Thanks.

THE IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE

Notice the new door on the bunkhouse? Board member Ron Marchetti made it from some of the old wood we've gathered for repairs. Windows are next! Thanks, Ron.

We're already thinking about Spring in Southern Oregon ...

Spring

*There are robins sprinkled on the lawn; the
river's madness' all gone mellow.
Look! Here and there a spot of yellow,
Lifts its crocus head to meet the semi-warm
Pician sun
And I have little time to get the garden
planting done
Before the river's but a gentle, trick'ling
thing
And air's all bright with leaf and wing
And roses, smiling at the daffodil,
Lift their chin and drink their fill.*

-- By Connie Fowler

BUNCOM FEATURED BY VISITORS BUREAU

For the past couple of months, Buncom has been featured on the Medford Visitors and Convention Bureau's Internet page for travel writers. The description is titled, "Things are alive and well in Buncom," and it reads in part:

"We bet you've never heard of Buncom, Oregon. Buncom is an authentic ghost town ... The Post Office, which operated from 1896 to 1917, is still standing, along with the bunkhouse and the cookhouse ... The history of this fascinating ghost town is well documented and preserved by the Buncom Historical Society."

If you'd like to take a look, the page is at www.visitmedford.org/travel.html.

A LOOK BACK ...

Society member Larry Goins suggested that we spotlight a bit of Buncom history in each newsletter. This time we'll offer an excerpt from "Ruch and the Upper Applegate Valley," by Society members John and Marguerite Black:

The Buncom mining district was formally organized in 1867. Mining claims were held by whites who leased them to Chinese mining companies. The Chinese were experienced miners, as many had earlier worked the California gold fields. They did hard work and paid royalties to the owners. The Chinese lived together in a camp of tents and shacks near this site. The camp began to be called Buncom. There are conflicting stories about the origin of this name. The most logical one is that it came from some pioneer slang meaning "not worth much." The name stuck long after mining was discontinued and settlers took up land to establish homesteads.

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The Buncom Historical Society is a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving the buildings and history of the ghost town of Buncom, Oregon. Society address: 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

On the Internet: <http://www.mind.net/buncom/>